

FEDERAL ACTION BEGUN TO BREAK TELEPHONE TRUST

Suit Is Filed at Portland,
Ore., by Attorney-

BELL COMPANIES
OBJECT OF ATTACK

Giant Corporation May Have to Relinquish Control of Formerly Independent Companies—Proceedings Will Not Interfere With General Investiga-

Portland, Ore., July 24.—Dissolution of the alleged telephone monopoly on the Pacific Coast by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company—the so-called "Bell Telephone Trust," is sought by Attorney-General McReynolds in a civil antitrust suit filed here to-day. The government charges the giant

giant corporation and its subsidiaries with absorbing independent telephone companies to destroy competition and create a monopoly in Oregon, Washington, Montana and Idaho in violation of the Sherman law. This is the first attempt ever made to apply the Federal antitrust statute to the telephone situation. Telephone companies have claimed that the telephone, like the railroad, is a natural monopoly, and that a single system is

It is declared that the suit filed to day will not interfere with the sweeping investigation proposed by the Interstate Commerce Commission into the general telephone situation to determine whether the Sherman law should be invoked generally with the purpose

of enforcing competition or whether monopoly should be permitted or encouraged under regulation similar to that of railroads. This step was taken in the West because the Attorney General believed there existed a peculiar situation demanding immediate attention to cure evils said to have been brought about by unfair practices and illegal combinations.

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May Ask Receiver.

The Attorney-General asks the court to compel the Bell companies to relinquish control of the Independent Telephone Company, of Seattle; the Home Telephone Company, of Puget Sound; the Northwestern Long Dis-

stances Telephone Company, the Interstate Consolidated Telephone Company and the Independent Long Distance Telephone Company. If necessary to accomplish the dissolution, the court is asked to appoint a receiver for the properties.

Attorney-General McReynolds's well known views that the pro-rata distribution of the stocks of the Standard Oil and tobacco trusts did no bring about a real dissolution of those combinations are strongly reflected in the following words, in which he has said:

requests the court to require the alleged telephone trust to dispose of the stocks, bonds and physical properties of the independents "to persons not connected with the Bell companies or stockholders or otherwise."

He asks for the restoration as far as practicable of competitive conditions existing prior to the consolidations and that the Bell companies, their officers and agents, be enjoined from acquiring interest in or control of the companies relinquished.

DERED OUT STRIKERS

The deputies could not offer much resistance as the strikers outnumbered

resistance as the strikers outnumbered them, but there were many fights after the stars had been collected, and several persons were beaten. A few men were taken to hospitals.

The strikers then surrounded all the surface plants of the Calumet and Hecla Company, and forced suspension of auxiliary operations. The machine shops, foundries and other plants

shops, foundries and other similar industries were closed before the onset of the miners. The stamp mills were

not molested, but they shut down to day for lack of ore and because of the general confusion.

Peace Demonstrations.

Whether the men yielded to the advance of their leaders or were frightened by the call for troops, they ceased their demonstrations this afternoon. More than 500 miners from Ahmeed and the surrounding districts lined the streets. Several mass-meetings were held and great enthusiasm was shown when speakers exhorted the men to remain faithful to the strike orders and to abstain from all armed acts. Miners have sent out repeated requests to the men to desist from carrying arms or interfering by violence with any one about the mines. (Continued)

This afternoon, strikers marched to the Red Jacket Shaft of the Calumet area. The Hecla Company and chased away three watchmen. At Hancock a body of strikers this afternoon went to the Park Brewing Company's plant, operated by nonunion men since a strike some months ago, and closed the plant by driving away the brewers.

Ready for Active Service.
Lansing, Mich., July 24.—Two troops of cavalry, two companies of artillery and all the infantry companies of the Michigan National Guard have been